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GENERAL NEWS.

A letter from Washington in the N. Y. Express says:—"The past twelve months have added considerable to the permanent population of this city. The extended exigencies of the government have caused the establishment of many new offices; the families of quite a number of prominent officers of the army have taken residences here, business of every kind has been extended, bringing new business men, all of which make quite an accession to the population."

"Everybody knows that the future of Havana depends upon the success of the French expedition in Mexico." These are the sphynx-like words of Napoleon, sent forth to the world in the columns of the Paris Patrie, and which have created almost as much sensation in Paris as the few ominous words uttered to the Austrian Ambassador at the famous New Year reception previous to the war with Austria.

The U. S. storeship Supply, from New Orleans May 13, and Key West 25th, arrived at New York on Friday night. All the fleet had sailed from New Orleans for up the river, with the exception of the Mississippi and Pensacola, which were left to guard the city. The health of the city, and also the troops and crews of the ships, was good.

The trial of Judge Vest H. Humphreys, of Tennessee, by the High Court of Impeachment, composed of the members of the U. S. Senate, on articles of impeachment for "high crimes and misdemeanors" in office presented by the House of Representatives, was to take place to-day.

The New York Express says:—"The President to-day has sent in three new names to fill foreign missions. The German, Koener, is sent to Spain to fill the place of Carl Schurz.—Judge Culver is provided for in Venezuela.—The Judge aspired to much higher places.—Benjamin Whidden, New Hampshire man goes to Hayti. What is worth nothing, none of these gentleman read or speak the languages of the countries they are sent to.

The London Morning Post understands that the demand for the restitution of the Emilie St. Pierre cannot be complied with, as the municipal law takes no cognizance of the act of the three men who recaptured her, as an offence, or recognizes it as an injury suffered by the beligerents.

Experiments have lately been made which show that iron plates are not proof against rifle cannon shot. A target, composed of six iron laminated plates, completely riddled and broken up by two-and-a-half pound leaden balls, is exhibited in Washington.

Emigration from Ireland to America continues very large.

In Gen. Banks's official report of the recent events in the valley of Virginia, he says:—"Officers, whose word I cannot doubt, have stated as the result of their own observation, that our men were fired upon from private dwellings in passing through Winchester; but I am credibly informed, and gladly believe, that the atrocities said to have been perpetrated upon our wounded soldiers by the rebels, are greatly exaggerated or entirely untrue."

A London letter to the Philadelphia Inquirer says:—"On the ninth of next month Queen Victoria marries her daughter, the Princess Alice, to Prince Louis of Hesse—provided the King of Belgium is well enough to be present, who is to act in the place of her father."

The N. Y. Post of Saturday evening says:—"The government securities fell off $\frac{1}{4}$ @ $\frac{3}{4}$ at the board this morning, and this feeling carried down the railway stocks from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, the decline being somewhat irregular.

Hon. Reverdy Johnson has been appointed U. S. Commissioner by the State Department to proceed to New Orleans to take proof with regard to the recent seizure of gold there, in the office of the Consul of the Netherlands.

At Cairo, Illinois, on Thursday, there were three distant shocks of an earthquake. They were also felt at several points north, as far as Urbanna. No damage was done so far as ascertained.

Col. Geo. F. Shepley, of Maine, who is at present military commandant of New Orleans, has, it is said, upon the recommendation of Gen. Butler, been appointed Military Governor of Louisiana.

Mr. Sumner, in the U. S. Senate, has offered a resolution declaring the "office of Military Governor contrary to the constitution and laws, destructive to the civil authority, and contrary to the spirit of our institutions."

The annual regatta of the New York Yacht Club came off on Friday last, according to the published programme, and was a highly interesting affair.

The passage of the Emancipation bill, as modified, in connection with the confiscation measures, meets with less objection than formerly. These opponents of the measures are convinced that their efforts will avail nothing.

The New York Herald says that in opposition to the Emancipation League formed in New York, the programme of a "Conservative party" has been prepared, which is favored by Mr. Seward and Mr. Weed.

The Mobile News of the 31st ultimo contains a strict order from Beauregard forbidding correspondents within twenty-five miles of his lines. Also, officers and soldiers from writing about his army in their correspondence.

The Memphis Avalanche, of the 2d instant, says that a large part of the Confederate army at Corinth were sent to Richmond, and are now opposed to the Federals there.

The report that two hundred Confederate prisoners, some of whom had the small-pox, were sent to Fort Pillow for exchange, is confirmed by a correspondence between Generals Beauregard and Halleck.

The State Department is in possession of a number of interesting Confederate documents. Among them is one from Judge Rost, a Southern Commissioner (dated March 21,) to Europe, addressed to the Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, of Va., in which he states that Spain will not act, except along with France and England, and that there is no present prospect of intervention. He thinks the Southern Commissioners ought not to be retained at the European courts.

It is stated that dispatches have been received in Washington from Gen. Halleck reporting that Gen. Beauregard is making an effort to concentrate his scattered forces at Baldwin, a town on the Mobile and Ohio railroad, thirty-one miles south of Corinth. But the recent dispatches from Mississippi have been so confused and contradictory that the actual whereabouts of the Confederate army seems to be really a matter of speculation.

James Trabue, one of the principal dry goods merchants of Louisville, who has been South for five months and returned on Wednesday, was arrested on Thursday by the military authorities. He refused to take the oath of allegiance and was committed to military prison.

On Saturday the bids for the Maryland Defence Loan were opened at Annapolis. The amount to be awarded was two hundred and fifty thousand dollars; the amount for which bids were made was nearly two and a half millions of dollars. No bid was made under par, and they ran up to nearly two and a half per cent. premium.

The "cullud pusson" who is travelling about the country as "Jeff. Davis's coachman," delivering lectures to admiring Greeleyites, does not find his business very profitable in Brooklyn. He appeared at the Brooklyn Institute on Tuesday evening, but as his audience consisted of three colored women, two white boys, admitted on dead-head passes from a local newspaper office, and one reporter, he did not speak.

Dispatches from Flag-officer Dupont state that the gunboats have possession of Stone, near Charleston. The capture was made in consequence of information received from Robert Sewell, the colored pilot of the steamer Planter, which he ran away with out of Charleston harbor.

The session of Congress appears to be drawing to a close. The tax bill has passed the Senate with remarkable unanimity, and it is believed that the House will concur in the Senate amendments. The tariff bill has been prepared by the committee of ways and means, and will pass with little alteration.

Peter Gorman, of Laurel Hill, Md., died in Washington, on Friday night last.